

APR 22 2019

FCC Mailroom

April 16, 2019

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The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write to express the concern of constituents and local officials in my district regarding possible detrimental health effects of radiofrequency radiation (RF) emitted by 5G small cells.

From Huntington to Lake Success and beyond, small cell towers are being installed in residential neighborhoods in close proximity to houses throughout my district. I have heard instances of these antennae being installed on light poles directly outside the window of a young child's bedroom. Rightly so, my constituents are worried that should this technology be proven hazardous in the future, the health of their families and value of their properties would be at serious risk.

As I am sure you are aware, the National Toxicology Program (NTP) released a study in November of last year which linked RF radiation used in 2G and 3G networks to cancerous growths in rats.¹ Though this \$30 million, 10 year long study does not apply to 4G or 5G technology, the ubiquity of cellphone use throughout our country requires that this research be taken seriously in safety determinations of cellular technologies moving forward. While I understand that the FDA has reviewed this specific study, I wish to pass along my constituents' strong desire that further studies also be taken seriously and given a proper evaluation.² This is just one of the many pieces of research forwarded to my office by passionate activists who want to ensure the safety of their family, friends, and communities.

Another area of concern for many of my constituents is the FCC's outdated guidelines for safe human exposure to RF energy. The Commission's original updated guidelines were created in 1996 when much of the technology in use today was not yet available for widespread consumption, including 5G.³ In a letter dated December 17, 2018, Commissioner Carr explains

¹ National Toxicology Program, "Cell Phone Radio Frequency Radiation Studies," https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/materials/cell_phone_radiofrequency_radiation_studies_508.pdf

² U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Office of the Commissioner. "Press Announcements - Statement from Jeffrey Shuren, M.D., J.D., Director of the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health on the National Toxicology Program's Report on Radiofrequency Energy Exposure." U S Food and Drug Administration Home Page. November 1, 2018. <https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm624809.htm>.

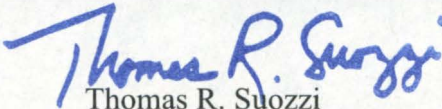
³ "Human Exposure to Radio Frequency Fields: Guidelines for Cellular Antenna Sites." Federal Communications Commission. March 12, 2019. <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/human-exposure-radio-frequency-fields-guidelines-cellular-and-pcs-sites>.

that safe exposure limits have been altered and updated in the FCC's guidelines since that time. How have these safety determinations been made and does the FCC plan on releasing the data it used to set these new limits?

5G will bring about a transformation to how people and networks communicate. While I understand the importance of this technology for the future of the American economy, I believe we must also be as certain as possible that it is safe. I respectfully request that you provide my office and all relevant House Committees with the information used by the FCC, FDA, and other related health agencies to make 5G safety determinations.

Please contact Michael Christesen (michael.christesen@mail.house.gov) in my office with any questions.

Sincerely,


Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

(TRS/mcc)





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 30, 2019

The Honorable Tom Suozzi
U.S. House of Representatives
226 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Suozzi:

Thank you for your correspondence concerning radiofrequency (RF) issues and for sharing your views about the potential impact of 5G deployment on RF exposure. Please be assured that the Federal Communications Commission places a high priority on the safety of wireless services and devices and relies upon verified engineering and scientific data as we carry out our mission.

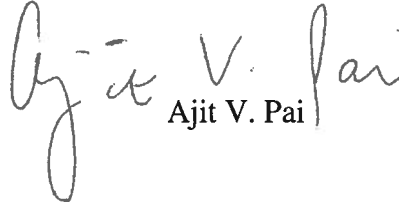
As an initial matter, the FCC relies on the expertise of health and safety agencies and organizations with respect to appropriate levels of RF exposure. Our current RF exposure limits incorporate recommendations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and other federal health and safety agencies. And these limits are derived from exposure limits recommended by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. and the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. Both these institutions have extensive experience and knowledge in RF-related issues and have spent a considerable amount of time evaluating published scientific studies that can inform appropriate exposure limits.

Importantly, the FCC has an ongoing rulemaking related to this matter. Specifically, the FCC adopted a Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Notice of Inquiry in 2013. The Report and Order resolved several issues related to measurements and exemptions raised, reevaluating some and modifying them to reflect the latest information available and usage and deployment patterns. The Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking sought comment on further changes to our rules. And the Notice of Inquiry sought public input on whether our basic RF exposure limits should be revisited. The record in the proceeding is voluminous, with over one thousand filings (totaling more than 20,000 pages). FCC staff is considering all of this evidence as it determines whether and in what way changes to our rules in this area should be made.

I also would note that we have sponsored groups of congressional staffers at our Columbia, Maryland testing facilities to see and speak with our engineers and technicians as they operate the RF testing equipment to ensure proper compliance with engineering standards. Earlier this year, more than 20 staffers attended our program and we hope to have another group visit this coming summer. My staff would be happy to invite your staff to our next scheduled program.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai